

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

### 2. Fiscal Year

2018

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

1531

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

12/04/2019

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

### 13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

### 16b. Report Date

04/04/2018

### Report Title

Southeast AK Subsistence RAC FY 2017 Annual Report

### Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

### 17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

### Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The purpose of this meeting was to make recommendations regarding the wildlife cycle proposals and provide a forum for the public discussion of Federal subsistence topics.	10/31/2017	11/02/2017
The purpose of this meeting was to provide a forum for the public to give testimony on issues related to Federal management of fish and wildlife, prepare proposals to change fish regulations, elect officers, and approve the FY 2017 annual report.	02/13/2018	02/15/2018

### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$113,429.00	\$115,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$23,796.00	\$25,000.00

<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$8,457.00	\$10,000.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$27,303.00	\$28,000.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$172,985.00	\$178,000.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.15	1.15

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council met twice in FY 2018 to hear public testimony on issues related to subsistence, review and make recommendations on fisheries monitoring plans, discuss issuing the annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board, craft proposals, and conduct administrative business. The Council holds meetings to gather information from the affected public and make informed recommendations about subsistence, such as, but not limited to, setting hunting and fishing regulations and ensuring traditional and customary practices remain achievable.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach/recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. These panels meet to rate and rank the applicants. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance points of view represented on the Council with the Council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also considers other factors such as geographic representation within the regions. The Secretaries must concur regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 9 months to complete.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings occur at least twice each year, with additional meetings as needed to deal with particular issues. The members of the Regional Advisory Council and the public

participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. Meetings are held in the region to allow public participation and input from the local residents who harvest under subsistence management regulations.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

ANILCA established the Regional Advisory Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities of the region and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands. The members of the Regional Advisory Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Regional Advisory Councils are the vital link between the Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Not applicable - all meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) provides recommendations regarding "take" of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska and serves as a forum for the public to bring issues important to the subsistence uses of wild renewable resources to the Agencies. Meeting minutes contain detailed information of the meetings held, including, but not limited to, any recommendations and justifications given by the Council.

**Designated Federal Officer**

DeAnna L. Perry Subsistence Council Coordinator

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Bangs, Michael	12/03/2003	02/19/2018	Commercial Fisher, Subsistence User	Representative Member
Douville, Michael	12/03/2000	12/02/2019	Subsistence Harvester/Commercial Fisher/Trapper	Representative Member
Hernandez, Donald	12/03/2002	12/02/2020	Commercial Fisher/Subsistence User	Representative Member
Howard, Albert	12/03/2014	12/02/2020	Charter Captain, Subsistence Harvester, Tribal member, Mayor of Angoon	Representative Member
Jackson, Kenneth	12/03/2012	01/11/2018	self employed	Representative Member

Kitka, Harvey	12/03/2002	12/02/2019	Retired, Subsistence User, Tribal member	Representative Member
Needham, Cathy	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Environmental Consultant	Representative Member
Phillips, Patricia	12/03/1993	12/02/2019	Subsistence User/Commercial Fisher/Tourism Businesswoman	Representative Member
Reifenstuhl, Steve	12/03/2015	12/02/2019	Southeast Alaska Salmon Aquaculture specialist	Representative Member
Schroeder, Robert	01/23/2014	12/02/2020	retired, subsistence user	Representative Member
Sensmeier, Raymond	12/03/2015	12/02/2018	Retired, subsistence user, Tribal member	Representative Member
Wright, Frank	12/03/2004	12/02/2019	Commercial fisher, Tribal Council President	Representative Member
Yeager, John	12/03/2010	12/02/2020	Charter Boat Business Owner/Operator, Sport Fishing Guide, Commercial Fisher	Representative Member

## **Number of Committee Members Listed: 13**

### **Narrative Description**

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents of Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands, and limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management of authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board, which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair. The Board is the decisionmaking body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop regulatory proposals for subsistence use of fish and wildlife, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocation and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council Chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of the Councils and provide

knowledge and advice to the Board.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Outcome Comments**

The Regional Advisory Council provides recommendations and information to the Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Council meets at least twice a year; however, individual members may represent the Board at any time to serve on a committee or working group. Council Chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of the Council and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Cost Savings Comments**

Regional Advisory Council members are volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain. Without the Council, the Program would need to greatly increase staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. The Board adopts a preponderance of the Council's recommendations which may lower resource management costs.

### **What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

173

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

The Council provided the Board with recommendations on proposals to change subsistence wildlife regulations either Statewide or within the Southeast Alaska region. The Council also provided recommendations on various wildlife management areas, which the Board will consider acting on in 2018. Prior to FY 2007 Council recommendations were not tracked.

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

92%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife within the region for subsistence on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations. Proposals to change subsistence regulations were deliberated during the October meeting and the Board agreed with some recommendations.

### **What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

8%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife within the region for subsistence on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations. If the Subsistence Board provides amendments to a Council recommendation prior to approval, they are not substantive (generally grammatical) and are not considered partially implemented.

### **Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the 805(c) Letter. The Board considers recommendations in the Council's annual report and makes a formal reply. Board decisions regarding other matters for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Subsistence Regional Coordinator or the Council Chair.

### **What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **Action Comments**

New subsistence fish and wildlife regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries information needs within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects related to those needs. The Council provided prioritized information needs (generally related to sockeye salmon stock status and harvest monitoring) and provided a list of specific projects for the FY 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funding cycle.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

This is an out-of-cycle year for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program grants. The Council provided the Program a list of information needs to guide the Notice of Available Funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A